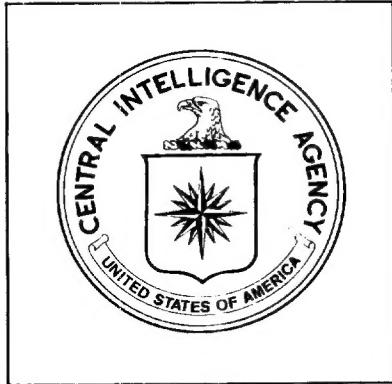


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This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the USSR - Eastern Europe Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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TOP SECRET UMBRA

Ceausescu-Zhivkov Meeting

Bulgarian party leader Zhivkov's visit to Romania from February 14 to 17 marks the second set of Ceausescu-Zhivkov talks in nine months. The news release summarizing the talks suggests that the two leaders discussed a wide variety of bilateral and multilateral economic and political subjects.

Some disagreement may have arisen on topics such as European security where the press notes that the two exchanged views. On balance, however, press coverage of the visit conveys a positive tone. For instance, both sides affirmed the necessity of "strengthening the unity of the socialist countries and of all anti-imperialist forces," and agreed to work for the "development of cooperation and relations of good neighborliness among the Balkan countries." Press reports also characterize the meeting as "a new and important point in the development of relations of cooperation."

Some unusual aspects of the meeting could indicate, however, that it was more than pro forma.

- The blackout on Zhivkov's activities in the Bulgarian media during the first two days of the visit suggests that the two men discussed sensitive topics such as economic relations with the USSR in view of the impending CEMA price changes.
- The Bulgarian leader's sudden arrival in Bucharest and the failure of Romanian and Bulgarian newspapers to reveal those accompanying him may also spark rumors that the Soviets assigned Zhivkov the job of trying to modify Romania's independent policies on such contentious issues as a pan-European communist conference.

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Zhivkov attempted to play a similar mediation role in 1966. At that time, the Soviets, in preparation for the international communist conference finally held in Moscow in 1969, called on Zhivkov to convince the Romanians to attend a preparatory all-European conference at Karlovy Vary, Czechoslovakia. He failed then, and there is little reason to expect Ceausescu to have a change of heart. Indeed, it is probable that Zhivkov again tried to convince Ceausescu to modify his conditions for attending multilateral meetings during their "vacation" talks last May in Varna. The Romanians since then have held to their independent positions at two preparatory meetings in Moscow's current drive for a pan-European communist conference. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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New Officers Noted in
Expanded USA Institute

The USA Institute, which recently expanded its title to "Institute of the USA and Canada," may be expanding its staff as well. Bentsion Milner, a former department chief at the institute, apparently has become the third deputy to the institute's director, Georgiy Arbatov. Milner's promotion to deputy director was noted on a visa application filed on February 12 in preparation for his fifth visit to the United States. (He is scheduled to arrive in March to attend a conference of UN experts on "state administration" and a meeting of the Soviet-American organizing committee for a future seminar on "organization of planning and technical forecasting.") A doctor of economic sciences, Milner has been a prominent figure at the USA Institute since 1969, when he became chief of the US Management and Systems Section, now known as the Management Department.

The chief of the institute's Canadian Section has also been identified recently. Leon Aleksandrovich Bagramov, a section chief at the institute since July 1972, is now known to have headed the Canadian Section since at least April 1974. Bagramov spent 7 years in Ottawa as a correspondent for *Selskaya Zhizn* (Rural Life) before joining the USA Institute. The articles he filed from Ottawa were often hackneyed tirades against "American imperialism," and the quality of his writing does not appear to have improved since he joined the USA Institute.

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